



Inverter for home with battery

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"It's fundamental to our architecture and just our raw personality as a company, I would say," Chris Thompson, vice president of product and technical marketing at SolarEdge, told CNET.

We did not conduct any hands-on testing for this review. Batteries are part of a complex home energy system that varies from house to house. Instead, this review is based on publicly available information online from SolarEdge and an interview with Thompson.

The SolarEdge Home Battery is a decent-sized 9.7 kilowatt-hour battery that comes with good performance and efficiency specs, as well as an unlimited cycle warranty. It also packs some intricate battery management features, designed to assist you in your battle against time of use rates. We'll talk more about this below.

"If you have an AC coupled battery, the power only goes to the battery once it's been converted to AC, that's an AC coupled architecture," Thompson said. "So on a DC-coupled architecture, you go directly from that PV to the battery."

Another great thing about the SolarEdge Home Battery is how it connects with other SolarEdge products. The system components are part of a sort of wireless communication ecosystem, using Google OpenThread, a wireless mesh networking protocol.

"We get two things from going to Google OpenThread," Thompson said. "One is when people are running the communications wires from their inverter to their battery, sometimes they screw it up because you never know how far the battery is from the inverter usually. The second thing is it looks better because you don't need to have this communications line running from one spot to the other."

Having a wireless system can also make system updates easier, and Thompson said the wireless system SolarEdge has in place is faster than a wired communication solution. SolarEdge also has a complex time-of-use algorithm, specifically designed to help combat unpredictable electricity rates in California.

"NEM 3.0 in California made things super complicated," Thompson said. "So we've got these very detailed time of use prices that change with the season, they change with the time of day, they change whether it's a weekend, and they're asymmetrical. So the rate for the power going in is different for the rate for the power going out."

As long as your battery system remains cloud-connected, SolarEdge's algorithm keeps up with your



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utility's fluctuating time of use rates and helps you save money by using energy from your battery when electricity rates are at the highest, and charging your battery when it's cheapest to do so. The best part is you don't have to do anything. The battery does it automatically.

"It runs all these algorithms in the cloud. It's pretty advanced," Thompson said. "But for the homeowner, it's 100% transparent. All that happens is the installer installs it, they put in the utility and all of it gets kind of automated in the cloud. But all of these calculations are run at night in our cloud. And it will come up with a prediction for the next day."

SolarEdge's battery isn't modular, meaning you won't be able to upgrade your storage capacity on a singular battery unit. If you find yourself needing more than 9.7 kWh, you'll have to buy another large battery versus just adding a little extra capacity to your existing battery. Needless to say, this can get expensive.

If you don't care about modularity, if 9.7 kWh (or a multiple of it) is the right size for you, or don't anticipate any capacity upgrades in the future, the SolarEdge Home Battery should serve you well.

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